

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 L-02 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ST-01 CAB-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 OCE-00 CCO-00 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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UNCLAS CARACAS 0322

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, VE

SUBJECT: PAN AMERICAN FREIGHT SERVICE TO VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 0076

1. THE DECISION BY PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS TO TEMPORARILY STOP FREIGHT SERVICE TO MAIQUETIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS BEGINNING TO SHOW HOPED-FOR RESULTS.
2. THE DAY FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE INSPECTED THE FACILITIES AND IMMEDIATELY GAVE A SERIES OF INSTRUCTIONS: IMPORTERS LIMITED TO SIX DAYS AFTER ARRIVAL TO REMOVE MERCHANDISE; CONSTRUCTION OF PREFABRICATED STORAGE SHEDS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, AND EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT ONES; IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF FREIGHT STORED ON PARKING APRON; ACCELERATION OF CUSTOMS PROCEDURES.
3. PANAM'S 747 FREIGHTER ARRIVED ENROUTE TO BRAZIL BUT UNLOADED 12 PALLETS TRANSPORTED FOR VIASA UNDER THE PALLET SPACE AGREEMENT.
4. AIRLINE OFFICIALS, AIRPORT AUTHORITIES AND IMPORTERS FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT ALL MEASURES ARE STOP-GAP SINCE GREATEST BOTTLENECK IS TEDIOUS CUSTOMS PROCEDURE AND INEFFICIENCY

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OF CUSTOMS INSPECTORS. WHILE SERIOUS CONGESTION WAS MOSTLY

RESULT OF DECEMBER IMPORT PEAK, AIRLINES ESTIMATE THAT NORMAL
FREIGHT VOLUME BEGINNING EARLY FEBRUARY WILL CONTINUE
TO CAUSE STORAGE PROBLEMS UNLESS CUSTOMS AUTHORIZES REMOVAL OF
FREIGHT TO OTHER LOCATIONS WHERE INSPECTION COULD
BE PERFORMED.
MILLS

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